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I have a few comments I would like to express regarding the proposed final settlement of the U.S. vs. Microsoft Corp. case.

Microsoft Corp. has been found guilty of "illegally maintaining an operating system (OS) monopoly." The function of the court is to now determine the penalty for the crime. The current proposed settlement does nothing to prohibit Microsoft from continuing their campaign of monopolizing the computer software market.

I was amazed to see the Microsoft proposal that they be "punished" by giving away their software to schools. As Mac/Apple has long been the OS of choice in US schools, this punishment is nothing more than a Microsoft attempt to gain a larger share of school exposure. This and they will be able to write off the cost of this "punishment" to further their monopoly. I find it laughable that the guilty party is allowed to "suggest" their punishment.

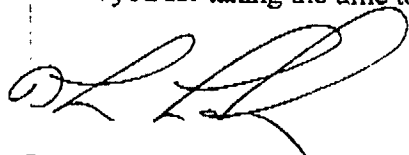
Any true punishment to Microsoft must limit their ability to continue their monopoly. In order to do this I propose the following as a just and reasonable penalty:

Microsoft products must be made an extra-cost option in the purchase of new computers, so that the user who does not wish to purchase them is not forced to do so. There are several viable OS's now on the market. The industry (Microsoft) should no longer be allowed to choose which OS is installed for you. In order to make the playing field even, allow the end user to decide which OS they desire. Allow market conditions (price/value) of the OS to dictate that choice.

Installing Microsoft Internet Explore must be made optional. Not pre installed in any sense of the word. Remove all links which attempt to make this the Browser of choice (default) after loading it. Allow equal access to other Internet Browsers without favor.

I realize this is a very complex issue and you are not treating it lightly. However, this decision will impact the future of the entire computer industry. Microsoft has created many valuable innovations in the industry. That does not give them the right to dictate history. That is the role of the court.

Thank you for taking the time to understand my point of view.



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